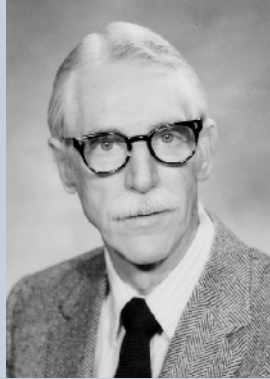


R. Lansing Hicks Dies at 86

by Gustav Spohn '73 M.A.R. and Jason Peno '10 M.Div.

R. LANSING HICKS, professor emeritus of Old Testament and former associate dean of academic affairs at Yale Divinity School, died on January 14, 2008, in Hamden, CT, after a long illness. Hicks joined the Berkeley Divinity School faculty in 1954 and retired in 1990 from both BDS and YDS, which affiliated in 1971.



An Episcopal priest with roots in the South, Hicks was remembered at a March 27 memorial service in Marquand Chapel as a teacher who cared deeply about his students both in and out of class. One alumna, Victoria Hoffer '90 M.A.R., remembered Hicks's strongest character traits as "honesty, integrity, dignity." Hoffer, now a lecturer at YDS in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, added, "His greatest contributions emerged from him, from his character. And I can think of no higher praise."

Hicks's integrity was apparent early in his career when, as a young scholar in 1952, he was among a group of faculty at

the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, who resigned their positions to protest the school's reluctance to desegregate. Hicks and the others had written a widely publicized letter calling the school's position "untenable in the light of Christian ethics and of the teaching of the Anglican Communion."

As a biblical scholar, Hicks's interests lay primarily in the area of the Christian use of the Old Testament in its relation to the New Testament. Hicks earned a B.A. in 1942 from Wake Forest University, then a B.D. from the School of Theology at the University of the South in 1945. He received a Th.D. in 1954 from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Hicks is survived by his wife Helen of Hamden; two sons, Peter Hicks of Hamden, and Robert L. Hicks Jr. of Casa Grande, AZ; a daughter, Katherine M. Hicks of Northampton, MA; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



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